

August 2010

SARL HF CW Contest 29 August
ZS6JVT Spring 40 Metre Youth Contest 4 September
Spring QRP Sprint 12 September
SARL VHF/UHF Contest 18 and 19 September
SARL Club Digimodes Contest 29 September



India's amateur radio operators get 6 metres

Prasad, VU2PTT (also W2PTT), Contest Manager for the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI), reports, "We have news from our Ministry of Communications that the 6 metre band has finally been allocated for Amateur Radio use. The new allocation says - 50 - 54 MHz on F1B, F2B, F3E, F3C modes using 25 watts."

We are hoping there is a typo here and will try to get clarifications as the old allocations allowed CW and SSB among other modes on VHF/UHF which is no longer the case.

The licensing structure has now been rationalised with only two classes of license - Restricted and General - and licenses can now be acquired either for 20 years or for the lifetime of the holder.

The other interesting development is that 400 watts DC input power has been allowed on all HF bands for the General class licence. Earlier the limit was 150 watts input with 400 watts being allowed in very small sub-bands for the old Advanced class licence holders.

The full details of the new allocations and license structure is available at http://wpc.dot.gov.in/DocFiles/amateur_new_guidelines.pdf

Saba 2010 DXpedition

The Saba 2010 team has completed all preparations for the activation of Saba beginning 10 October 2010 (refer the item on the Netherlands Antilles in HF Happenings 419). As you know by now, that is the likely date that the Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist and several new DXCC entities will be created as a result. One of those new countries should be Saba/St Eustatius due to their close proximity. Although, this is not a 100% certainty, it is likely enough to plan an operation.

Two teams, comprised mostly of members of the Southeastern DX Club (SEDXC) will operate over a two-week period beginning 10 October and ceasing operations the morning of 23 October.

A reconnaissance trip was conducted to Saba Island in March of this year, and two QTHs were selected. They are a minimum of 500 ft above the sea with a clear shot to the main target areas of JA, NA and EU. In March, this location produced many QSOs all over the world with low power and wire antennas. We should be loud! Combine this QTH and with excellent operators and we believe DXers worldwide will have a great chance of making QSOs for a brand new one.

HF Happenings 420



August

1 SARL HF Phone Contest
4 closing date SARL Club logs
9 National Women's Day, SARL YL Sprint; closing date Boland logs
12 First day of Ramadan; International Youth Day
16 closing date HF Phone logs
21 RTA Port Elizabeth
21/22 International Lighthouse and Lightship activity
24 closing date YL Sprint logs
29 SARL HF CW Contest
31 African Traditional Medicine Day

September

1 Secretaries Day
4 ZS6JVT Spring 40 Metre Youth Contest
6 - 10 National Arbour Week
9 Rosh Hashanah
10 Eid al-Fitr
11 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
12 Spring QRP Sprint; ARRL September VHF QSO Party
13 Closing date SARL CW logs
16 World Ozone Day
18 Yom Kippur; RTA, Gauteng
18/19 SARL VHF/UHF Contest
21 World Alzheimer's Day; International Day of Peace
21 - 25 African Aerospace and Defence Show, AFB Ysterplaat, Cape Town
23 Spring Equinox; Schools close
24 Heritage Day/National Braai Day; Heritage Day Sprint
25/26 CQ WW RTTY contest
27 World Tourism Day; World Heart Day; Closing date Spring QRP logs
29 SARL 80 m Club Digamodes Contest

We have created a website, www.saba2010.com, and we will be updating it periodically. It is our intent to upload to LOTW from Saba often.

Please note that this operation is entirely self-supporting. The operators themselves will bear all the costs and provide their personal equipment for the stations and antennas.

DXCC

Bill Moore NC1L, the ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the following operation is approved for DXCC credit - 9XØTL - Rwanda, 2010 Operation

Oil-rigs do not count for the DXCC (though the call has no /mm). This applies also to 4KOGNY who is stationed on an oil-rig in the Caspian Sea

SWR

Bil Paul, KD6JUI, of Dixon, California, wrote to the ARRL's Doctor, noting that he noticed when he was tuning for optimal background noise while in receive mode, it came close to - but didn't match - the dial positions for minimal SWR while transmitting. He asked which of the two antenna tuner dial settings would result in the most transmitted energy while in transmit mode. He also wants to know if minimal SWR always indicates the most transmitted energy going to the antenna system.

Here is what the Doctor had to say:

In answer to the first question, by setting the antenna tuner to an SWR of 1:1, you have transformed the impedance at the bottom of your antenna feed line to 50 ohms, just what your transceiver is designed to deliver its rated power into. If your receiver input impedance were exactly 50 ohms, then that setting would likely also be the position that would yield maximum receiver noise. As it happens, there is no such guarantee that the input impedance of the receiver will be exactly 50 ohms. Although it should be close, a slight change may yield a stronger signal into the receiver.

Regarding the second question, the transceiver is rated to provide its design output power into 50 ohms, usually within a specified SWR range. As was pointed out by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, in a QST article last year ["Keeping Current with Antenna Performance," Feb 2009, pages 34-36], an SWR of 1:1 does not generally result in the maximum power output. By building a transmission line current meter, such as described by Eric, or later by Paul Danzer, N1II ["A Simple Transformer to Measure Your Antenna Current," Sep 2009, page 35], you can actually tune the antenna tuner to get the highest output. This corresponds to the

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maximum current into the antenna, which may occur at some setting different from either of the above.

Be careful, though: If you exceed the maximum rated SWR, the resulting voltages or currents in the final amplifier or output filter of the transceiver will exceed design specs and damage may result. The likely small increase in transmitted power is likely worth neither the trouble nor the risk, in my opinion.

African DX

Gough Island, ZD9. John, ZS1LF, will depart for Gough Island (AF-030) in September and will remain there for one year. He plans to operate as ZD9GI in his spare time, "after official working hours and weekends." John will use dipoles) Yagis antennas are not permitted and will operate "SSB at this stage, digital modes later". Activity on the amateur bands will start after the supply ship, the SA Agulhas, leaves the island, and according to The Daily DX John "does not expect to be active until early November". QSL via ZS1A. Further information can be found at qrz.com

Marion Island, ZS8 (Update). Pierre, ZS1HF/ZS8M, informs OPDX: "The ship departed to Cape Town, and we have a team of 50 construction workers trying to complete the new base. The ship returns in November to collect them. ZS8M is back and operational again, but I need to watch my operating times very carefully as I do not want to create any problem with management.

The SteppIR vertical is still in the box and will stay there until weather conditions allow it to be installed, or until I can install it at the new base."

Mayotte, TO2, IOTA AF-027. Operators Fabio, PY2AAZ/AC2AC, Anderson, PY2TNT, Fred, PY2XB, and Alex, PY2WAS, will be active as TO2FH between 3 and 10 September 2010. No other details were provided.

Mauritius, 3B8, AF-049 and Rodriguez Island, 3B9, AF-017. Giorgio, IZ4AKS, will stay on Rodriguez Island (AF-017) between 28 August and 4 September. He is going to hit the airwaves as 3B9/IZ4AKS mostly on SSB on 10 - 40 m but also on CW and RTTY. Giorgio will work "holiday style" using a FT-897D with 100 watts and a vertical. Giorgio also plans an activity as 3B8/IZ4AKS from Mauritius (AF-049) before and after this time. QSL via home call, unfortunately only direct.

Rwanda, 9X. Tom, DL2RUM is active as 9X0TL from Kigali at various times until 28 September. Activity is on 80 through 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct via 9X0TL.

Central Africa, TL. Pat, LA0HF is active as TL8PB and has been active on 20 metres around 18:30 UTC. QSL to home call.

Special event station

Italy. The Italian submarine "Leonardo da Vinci" is formally taken out of service and the special event station II1IALV will be QRV in La Spezia from 27 to 29 August. QSLs via bureau or direct via IK8XVA.

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Spain. The Federacion Digital EA will activate several special event stations during the 75th bi-cycle race La Vuelta a Espana from 27 August until 30 September.

AM7LV - 27 August until 2 September

AM5LV - 31 August until 7 September

AM3LV - 5 to 10 September

AM1LV - 8 to 18 September

AM4LV - 16 to 20 September

QSLs with 1 IRC direct to FEDI-EA, PO Box 3050, 08200 Sabadell, Spain or you follow the instructions on <http://fediea.org/lavuelta>

Austria. Special event stations OE50AMRS, OE50XAM, OE50XCL, OE50XCW, OE50XLC, OE50XMA and OE50XRM will be active from 1 September to 31 December to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Austrian Military Radio Society in Peace Support Missions. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via bureau.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 23 to 30 August 2010.

New Jersey QSO Party

20:00 UTC 21 August to 07:00 UTC 22 August and 13:00 UTC 22 August to 02:00 UTC 23 August

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 m

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Exchange: NJ: Serial no and county; non-NJ:

Serial no and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO

Multipliers: NJ station: Each NJ county, state (other than NJ), VE province once;

Non-NJ station: Each NJ county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 September 2010

E-mail logs to: [w2rj\[at\]arrl\[dot\]net](mailto:w2rj[at]arrl[dot]net)

Mail logs to: Englewood ARA, PO Box 528, Englewood, NJ 07631-0528, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.qsl.net/w2rj/index.html>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member

QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with

SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 27 August 2010

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 25 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

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QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 26 August 2010
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

RSGB 80 m SSB Club Sprint
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 25 August
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: 100 W; 10 W
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 1 September 2010
Upload log at:
<http://www.rsqbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2010/rsprint.shtml>

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 August
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40 and 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 August 2010
E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

ALARA Contest
04:00 - 13:59 UTC 28 August and 04:00 - 13:59 UTC 29 August
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: ALARA: RS(T), serial no, ALARA member and name; non-ALARA: RS(T), serial no, name and whether club station
Work stations: Once per 60 minutes per band per mode
QSO Points: 5 points per phone QSO with ALARA member; 4 points per phone QSO with YL non-member; 3 points per phone QSO with OM or club station; Double points per QSO for CW
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 30 September 2010
E-mail logs to:
alaracontest[at]wia[dot]org[dot]au
Mail logs to: Mrs. Lesley Smit, VK5LOL, PO Box 271, Ashton 5137 SA, Australia
Find rules at:
<http://www.alara.org.au/contests/30th-alara-contest-rules/>

Hawaii QSO Party
07:00 UTC 28 August to 22:00 UTC 29 August
Mode: CW, Phone, RTTY, PSK
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Transmitter QRP Mixed; Single Op - CW or mixed; Multi-Multi
Max power: non-QRP: >5/10 watt; QRP: 5 watts CW/RTTY/PSK, 10 watt SSB
Exchange: HI: RS(T) and QTH ID; non-HI W/VE: RS(T) and state or province; DX: RS(T)
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO on 20, 15 or 10 m; 4 points per phone QSO on 40 m;

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8 points per phone QSO on 80 m; 16 points per phone QSO on 160 m; CW/RTTY/PSK points per QSO are x 2 phone points
Multipliers: Each HI QTH ID once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 September 2010
E-mail logs to: HIQSO[at]karc[dot]net
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://karc.net/OperatingEvents/HawaiiQSOParty/2010_HI_QSO_Party.html

SCC RTTY Championship

12:00 UTC 28 August to 11:59 UTC 29 August

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - low, high or power; Single Op Assisted; Multi-Single

Max power: HP: 1 500 watt; LP: 100 watt

Exchange: RST and 4-digit year license first issued

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different country; 2 points per QSO between different W, VE, VK, ZL, ZS, JA and PY call areas, LU provinces and Asiatic Russia UA9/UA0 oblasts; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each 4-digit year licensed once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 September 2010

E-mail logs to: rttty[at]hamradio[dot]si

Mail logs to: Slovenia Contest Club, Saveljska 50, 1113 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Find rules at:

<http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/rtty/htmlrules.htm>

YO DX HF Contest

12:00 UTC 28 August to 12:00 UTC 29 August

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - CW, SSB, mixed - high or low; Single Op Single Band;

Multi-Op Single Transmitter; Youngster/Novice (<16 y)

Max power: High: >100 w; Low: 100 w or less

Exchange: YO: RS(T) and district; non-YO: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 8 points per QSO with YO station; 4 points per QSO with non-YO station on different continent; 2 points per QSO with non-YO station in different country, same continent; 1 point per QSO with non-YO station in same country

Multipliers: Each DXCC country (not YO) once per band; Each YO district once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 September 2010

E-mail logs to:

yodx-contest[at]hamradio[dot]ro

Mail logs to: FRR, PO Box 22-50, Bucharest RO-014780, Romania

Find rules at:

<http://www.yodx.ro/en/hf-contest/rules>

Kansas QSO Party

14:00 UTC 28 August to 02:00 UTC 29 August and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 August

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Op; Youth; Mobile Single Op - CW or mixed; Mobile Multi-Op Single Radio; Mobile Unlimited; Mobile SSB

Max power: HP: >100 watt; LP: 100 watt; QRP: 5 watt

Exchange: KS: RS(T) and county; non-KS: RS(T) and state, VE section or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW/digital QSO

Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with KCOAHN; 100 points for at least one QSO with KSOKS

Multipliers: KS: Each US state, VE section and "DX" once; non-KS: Each KS county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and Bonus Points

Submit logs by: 30 September 2010

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E-mail logs to: [logs\[at\]KsQSOParty\[dot\]org](mailto:logs[at]KsQSOParty[dot]org)
Upload log at: <http://logs.KsQSOParty.org>
Mail logs to: Kansas QSO Party, c/o Randy Wing, NOLD, 13038 SW 186th St., Rose Hill, KS 67133-8559 USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.kqsoparty.org/rules/>

Ohio QSO Party
16:00 UTC 28 August to 04:00 UTC 29 August
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op - High, Low or QRP; Multi-Op; Mobile; Rover
Max power: HP: >100 watt; LP: 100 watt;
QRP: 5 watt CW, 10 watt SSB
Exchange: OH: serial no and county; non-OH: serial no and state, province or "DX"
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW QSO
Multipliers: OH Stations: Each state, province, OH county once per mode; non-OH Stations: Each OH county once per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults (see rules for mobile stations)

Submit logs by: 27 September 2010
E-mail logs to: [logs\[at\]ohqp\[dot\]org](mailto:logs[at]ohqp[dot]org)
Mail logs to: Ohio QSO Party; c/o Jim Stahl, K8MR; 30499 Jackson Rd; Chagrin Falls, OH; 44022-1730; USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.ohqp.org/adminRules.htm>

SARL HF CW Contest
14:00 - 16:00 UTC 29 August
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m
Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op All Band; Multi-Op Single Band; SWL
Exchange: RST and serial no
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 13 September 2010
E-mail logs to: zs4bfm@netactive.co.za
Mail logs to: Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club, Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324, South Africa
Find rules at:
<http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/SARL%202010%20Contest%20Manual.pdf>

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 1 September
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 September
International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest, 23:00 3 September to 23:00 UTC 5 September
All Asian DX Contest, Phone, 00:00 UTC 4 September to 24:00 UTC 5 September
Russian RTTY WW Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 September
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 06:00 - 06:29 UTC; 06:30 - 06:59 UTC; 07:00 - 07:29 UTC; 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 4 September
Colorado QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 4 September to 04:00 UTC 5 September
Brazil Independence Day BPSK31 CDX Contest, 12:00 UTC 4 September to 12:00 UTC 5 September
AGCW Straight Key Party, 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 4 September
RSGB SSB Field Day, 13:00 UTC 4 September to 13:00 UTC 5 September
IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day, 13:00 UTC 4 September to 12:59 UTC 5 September
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, 11:00 - 17:00 UTC 5 September
Tennessee QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 5 September to 03:00 UTC 6 September
MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 6 September to 03:00 UTC 7 September
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 7 September

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This week in History

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW. The week starting Monday 23 August 2010

- 0079 - The volcano, Mt Vesuvius, erupted for the first time
- 1456 - The printing of the Gutenberg Bible was completed
- 1887 - Thomas Edison patents 'Kinetoscope', the device produces moving pictures
- 1891 - Thomas Edison applied for a movie camera patent
- 1891 - W. Gray markets coin operated phone boxes, Hartford, USA
- 1900 - C. Persky describes 'Television' at the Paris Exposition
- 1910 - J.D.A McCurdy sends the first wireless message from an aircraft to the ground (Long Island)
- 1920 - First radio news program, station 8MK, Detroit, Michigan, USA
- 1922 - First 'commercial' aired on WEA, New York

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

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